



October 5, 2012

John D. Simon, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost
The University of Virginia
Madison Hall 207
P.O. Box 400226
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4226

Dear Dr. Simon:

Thank you for the response to my letter of June 25, 2012 requesting an explanation and documentation regarding the University of Virginia's (UVA) ongoing compliance with the following standards of *The Principles of Accreditation*:

- ▶ Principle 1.1 Integrity
- ▶ Core Requirement 2.2 Governing Board
- ▶ Comprehensive Standard 3.7.5 Faculty Role in Governance

The request was made following national publicity regarding the events surrounding the resignation of President Teresa A. Sullivan.

After reviewing the material submitted, Commission staff determines that the UVA response adequately addresses the institution's ongoing compliance with CS 3.7.5 Faculty Role in Governance as it applies to curricular matters. However, questions remain as to UVA's ongoing compliance with Principle 1.1 Integrity and CS 2.2 Governing Board. Given that there is a lack of an identified procedure related to the removal of the institution's President, the possibility of integrity issues with governing board authority and actions continues to exist.

In addition, CS 3.7.5 Faculty Role in Governance would also appear to apply to the Board of Visitor's acceptance of the resignation of the President. As acknowledged in the UVA response of September 20, 2012 (p.4), the Faculty Senate has a rôle in advising the Rector and the Board of Visitors "concerning educational and related matters affecting the welfare of the University." According to this statement, it would seem that though the Board of Visitors has the ultimate responsibility for hiring, evaluating, and if necessary, firing the President, the Faculty Senate should have been notified of the intentions of the Board's actions.



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Thus, as a result of this review by Commission staff, this matter will be referred to the Committees on Compliance and Reports, standing committees of the Commission's Board of Trustees, for formal review in December 2012. You will be informed of the decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees within two weeks of its meeting.

If you wish to furnish additional information regarding this matter, you are to send the information to the Commission office no later than November 12, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark V. Smith".

Mark V. Smith, Ed.D.

Vice President

cc: Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D., President, SACSCOC
Ms. Helen Dragas, Rector, University of Virginia Board of Visitors